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Imagery analysis report

Pretoria Military Vehicle Test Facility South Africa (S)

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PRETORIA MILITARY VEHICLE TEST FACILITY SOUTH AFRICA (S)

1. (S/D) Pretoria Military Vehicle Test Facility [] Figure 1) is under construction in South Africa, approximately 5 nautical miles (nm) west of Pretoria and 5 nm east-northeast of Valindaba Uranium Isotope Separation Plant []. When complete, the test facility will include the major elements required for the testing of military vehicles.

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2. (S/D) Construction commenced in early 1978. By mid-1979, construction activity appeared to have increased and has continued at a rapid pace until the present. Although still in the early- to mid-stage of construction, many of the features normally found at a vehicle test facility can be identified (Figure 2). A large oval test track, approximately 3,200 meters in diameter, and three dynamometer (acceleration) test tracks, each over 1,000 meters in length, are under construction. A large turning circle, a possible gap-crossing test facility, and a possible obstacle-climb test facility are within the oval track. A vehicle gradient test facility is also within the oval and will probably consist of five ramps when complete. A second vehicle gradient test facility is immediately outside the oval and has two ramps.

3. (S/D) A cross-country suspension/power train track with numerous curves, switchbacks, and hard turns is adjacent to the northern side of the oval track. A large, revetted building measuring 90 by 52 by 11 meters is within the cross-country course.

4. (S/D) A military barracks area is adjacent to the southern side of the oval track and consists of two administration buildings, 19 barracks, and a parade field.

5. (S/D) The presence of banked, high-speed curves and what appears to be a predominance of concrete and asphalt indicates that emphasis will be on the testing of wheeled vehicles. However, the facility has test areas apparently designed to accommodate both wheeled and tracked vehicles. The presence of possible gap-crossing and obstacle-climb facilities is indicative of tracked vehicle testing.

6. (S/D) This elaborate facility will enable South Africa to test numerous vehicles of various types simultaneously. It is unlikely that such a facility would be constructed to test vehicles already in the inventory. South Africa's major combat vehicles—the Centurian tank, the Rattle armored personnel carrier, and the AML armored car—have all been proven in the field. Therefore, South Africa may be planning to produce a new series of military vehicles.

IMAGERY

(S/D) All available, applicable imagery acquired from [] was used in the preparation of this report.

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Third World Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC []

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SECRET**FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF PRETORIA MILITARY VEHICLE TEST FACILITY, SOUTH AFRICA****SECRET**

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